Siphoning off Funds by Air India Officials

2609. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India officials in collaboration with unscrupulous travel agents have siphoned off Rs. 800 cr. per year by claiming "Special Promotional Expenses" in the last three years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the "leakage" of funds was one of the main reasons for Air India's losses during the last three years; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken to bring the corrupt officials to book?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of Airport at Itanagar

2610. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be plased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of airport at Itanagar;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be constructed and the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to construct a new airport at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh for operation of 50 seater class of aircraft. The site identified by the State Government for this purpose was inspected by a team of officers from the Airports Authority of India and the State Government. The site has not been found suitable. The State Government has, therefore, been advised to locate an alternate site for this project.

General Recruitment Rules in AAI

2611. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:—Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that both National and International divisions of Airports Authority of India are working independently having different recruitment and personnel rules resulting in avoidable establishment and lower profits; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures are proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) and (b) National Airports Division and International Airports Divisions of Airports Authority of India (AAI) are not working independently, except that Recruitment and Promotion (R and P) Regulations followed are separate in both the divisions as were before the merger of the two authorities in 1995. This has, however, not lowered the profits of AAI. Action is at hand to have common R and P Regulations for both divisions of AAI.

Rationalisation of Airport Security

2612. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to rationalize the situation at the airports because of CDS security risks by bringing custom and immigration under the authority of Airport Director under his Ministry;

(b) whether Government would ensure that the Airport Director can be from any of the three different departments by virtue of his seniority, popularity and performance at the airport; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Remittance of Money Abroad by U.P. Airways

2613. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that U.P. Airways has sent money abroad through its other companies;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times reporting that the U.P. Airways and its Director have done a fraud of crores of Rupees with the Canara Bank, Guwahati; and

(c) if so, the action being taken against them ?